

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments defined herein and the following remarks.

Applicant's invention is embodied in a two-part connector in which one of the parts or bodies is capable of receiving and sliding engagement therein a printed circuit board carrying at least one intelligent circuit component such as a microprocessor or microcontroller. One of the bodies is adapted to receive input wires and the other body, i.e the body carrying the printed circuit board, is adapted to receive output wires. When the two bodies are latchingly joined together, a condition which is only permitted if the circuit board is fully inserted into the second connector body in the proper orientation and to the proper degree, a complete circuit is made through the printed circuit board and the intelligent component mounted thereon. In this way, a microprocessor or the like can be inserted into an automotive supply circuit for a load device.

All claims have been rejected and the rejections are based exclusively on Owen (U.S. Patent No. 4,726,775). The Owen patent shows an electrical connector comprising a module 2 capable of receiving a circuit board 6 having edge connectors 14 and 22 unit connected by means of spring contacts 24. When the body 40, along with its wires 50, is inserted into the module 4, the projections 62 lift the spring contacts 24 and open circuit what would otherwise be a connection between a wire 50 and a conductor 22 on the circuit board 6. There is no disclosure in the Owen patent regarding the placement of intelligent circuit components such as microprocessors or microcontrollers on the printed circuit board; to the contrary, the printed circuit board appears to be nothing but a component of a switching system in which individual circuits can be selectively broken. Accordingly, there is only a superficial identity between Owen and the subject matter of the present application.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph, for failure to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. In particular, there was no antecedent basis for "said axis" in line 2. The claim has been amended to overcome the rejection and reconsideration as requested.

Claims 7-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as anticipated by Owen. Claim 7 has been amended to recite the intelligent circuit component on the circuit board and the fact that joining the two connector bodies together completes an electrical circuit from input conductors to output conductors through the circuit board and the intelligent component mounted thereon. Only in this

fashion can the intelligent circuit component be included in the power circuit for the load device which is supplied with electrical energy through this connector.

As set forth above, Owen does not have this capability and does not describe structure to provide it. Owen does not disclose a circuit board carrying an intelligent circuit component, and does not use the circuit board to provide a through passage for command signals and power from an input point to a load device in such a way as to utilize the intelligent capabilities of the circuit component carried on the circuit board. Owen, for all practical purposes, is nothing more than a selective switch. Reconsideration is requested.

Claim 10 has been added in dependent form on claim 9 to describe the position assurance feature of the present invention. This claim also clearly distinguishes from Owen.

Claims 1-6 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as unpatentable over Owen. The Examiner concedes that Owen does not show a plurality wire channels but argues that it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide such a feature.

Applicants respectfully challenge the Examiner's position. It is impermissible for the Examiner to take judicial notice of obviousness; he must cite and rely on references and specific teachings therein. See In Re Lee 277 F.3d 1338, 61 USPQ2 1430 (Fed. Cir. 2002).

In any event, the rejection of Claim 1 is mooted by the amendment submitted herewith which defines the position assurance components in greater detail. Claims 2, 3, and 5 have also been amended and claim 4 has been canceled. Reconsideration of these claims is also respectfully requested.

In summary, Applicants have identified various structural and functional characteristics which distinguish from the Owen device and have incorporated those points of distinction into the claims. All claims have been amended to overcome the rejections made in the Office Action and reconsideration is requested.

It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment traverses and overcomes all of the Examiner's objections and rejections to the application as originally filed. It is further submitted that this Amendment has antecedent basis in the application as originally filed, including the specification, claims and drawings, and that this Amendment does not add any new subject matter to the application. Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment places the application in suitable condition for allowance; notice of which is requested.

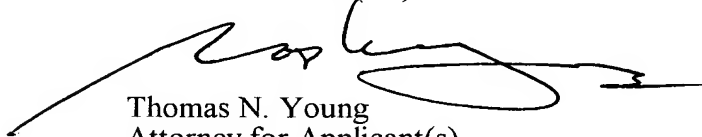
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If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present application can be expedited by way of an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & BASILE, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Young', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

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